



September 2002

Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Steering Committee

Aiken Bicycle Club, Aiken Parks and Recreation Department, Aiken Running Club, Augusta Canal Authority, Augusta Greenspace Commission, Augusta-Richmond Public Works, Augusta-Richmond Recreation Department, Augusta Running Club, ARTS Citizen Advisory Committee/Fort Gordon, Columbia Public Works, Columbia Recreation Department, Georgia DOT, Neighborhood Alliance, South Carolina DOT, Safe Communities Coalition Augusta, Transit Users, North Augusta, North Augusta Recreation



For more information please visit
www.co.richmond.ga.us/planz
or contact the following county representatives:

Stephen Strohming – Aiken County
803-642-1520

Tim Young – Columbia County
706-312-7178

Paul DeCamp – Richmond County
706-821-1796

Upcoming Community Meetings

To identify and prioritize projects please attend one of the following open houses:

November 6, 2002

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
North Augusta
Community Center

or

November 7, 2002

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Julian Smith
Barbecue Pit

or

November 7, 2002

4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Savannah Rapids Pavilion

ARTS Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Project Status Update

Since June, the Augusta Richmond Planning Commission has been preparing a regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. On July 9, community meetings were held at the Aiken Conference Center and the Augusta Richmond County Municipal Building. The goals of the community meetings were to:

- Educate the community about the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan update.
- Gather input on issues and perceived problems in the bicycle and pedestrian system.
- Identify origins and destinations.
- Identify preliminary criteria for project evaluation.

More than 60 staff and community members participated in these meetings. Handouts included ARTS Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan bookmarks; the first newsletter, highlighting the planning process and contact information; a project schedule; and a comment form.

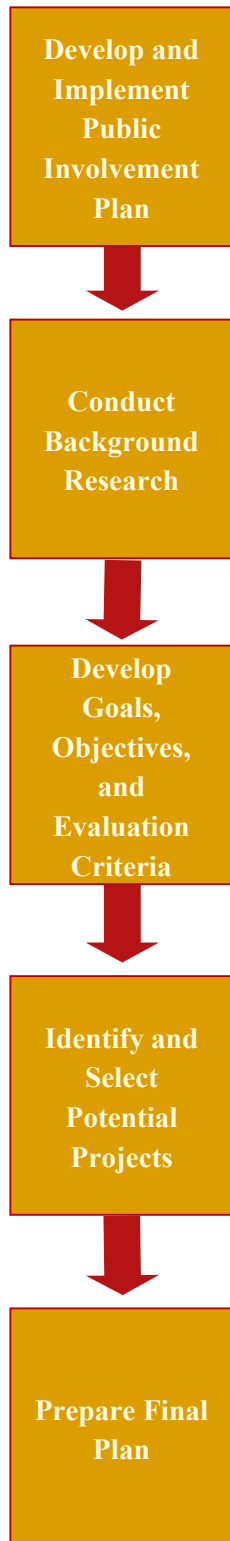
Participants were asked to provide information regarding locations to which they would like to bicycle or walk, regional issues/opportunities, and preferred route criteria. For a full summary of the community meetings, please visit

www.co.richmond.ga.us/planz.

A final round of community meetings is planned to finalize goals and objectives and to prioritize projects for inclusion into the plan.

Walking and bicycling Destinations prioritized at the regional community meetings:

Recreation Areas
Schools
Restaurants
Entertainment Venues
Churches
Homes
Hospitals
Libraries
Work Places
Transit Stops
Commercial Areas



Where Are We Today?

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Steering Committee, consisting of local government representatives, nonprofit representatives, and private sector organizations, has met several times to discuss issues and opportunities in the region, goals and objectives for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, and criteria and processes for the selection of projects for inclusion in the plan.

Issues and opportunities identified by the Steering Committee include the following categories:

**Social
Economic/Financial** **Physical
Policy/Political**

The Steering Committee identified goals and objectives, which reflect the issues and opportunities and provide a foundation for the selection of projects, identification of strategies and performance measures, and guidelines for long-range plans. These are listed on the next page. These goals and objectives will assist with the achievement of a unified vision for a regionally coordinated and connected multi-modal transportation system that provides educational, environmental and economic benefits for all users. In addition to the goals and objectives, the steering committee has also identified preliminary route selection criteria. These criteria are currently being refined.

As part of this update planning process, a review of existing conditions will be conducted and a report will be prepared including a description of federal guidance on bicycle and pedestrian planning; a summary of benefits associated with bicycling and walking; an overview of current plans, programs, projects, and designs that affect bicycling and walking options within the region (including the 1994 Bikeway Plan); and a brief description of socioeconomic data that may affect existing and future needs in the area. The purpose of this report is to identify data collection needs and analysis and to provide a foundation for future strategies, policies, and projects to evaluate needs and constraints for a coordinated and regional transportation network. For more information on this report, please visit the web site.

Where Do We Go From Here?

The next stages of the project include a refinement of project evaluation criteria, the identification and selection of projects, the development of standards that can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, and the identification of regionally consistent design standards for bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Goals and Objectives

Goal One: Provide for a bicycle and pedestrian transportation network to serve local, community, and regional needs.

Objectives:

- Overcome physical barriers through governmental coordination and identification of critical linkages/connections.
- Overcome policy level barriers by facilitating changes in local development ordinances and guidelines.
- Integrate and connect to transit facilities to create regional connections for both bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Provide bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in activity and town centers, where appropriate.
- Retrofit existing developed areas for ADA accessibility.
- Encourage local and state bicycle and pedestrian planning that complements and supports regional bicycle and pedestrian objectives.

Goal Two: Promote the viability of walking and biking as a safe and healthy transportation option throughout the region for all potential users.

Objectives:

- Support regional education, safety, and marketing programs that increase awareness and use of facilities for all users.
- Provide for ongoing regional bicycle and pedestrian coordination through a task force and dedicated staff time.
- Establish regionally consistent design standards for bicycle and pedestrian facilities for all users.
- Provide incentives to local employers and developers to promote bicycle and pedestrian use.

Goal Three: Identify appropriate and adequate funding for the development and maintenance of regional and local bicycle and pedestrian systems.

Objectives:

- Ensure flexibility in federal funding to include bicycle and pedestrian projects.
- Prioritize regional projects and strategies to develop a bicycle and pedestrian network based on need and regional significance.
- Promote low-cost, easy-to-implement projects at the local and state level (e.g., restriping, signage, bicycle racks).
- Establish requirements and standards for long-term maintenance of bicycle and pedestrian facilities.